

MEMO FOR OFFICE STUDY ONLY

FROM: Harold D. Donaldson

DATE: May 14, 1968

RE: Information needed by the State Engineer to set policy and administer the waters in Escalante Valley

To make policy and provide for proper water administration, the State Engineer needs to have as much information as possible on Milford Valley. Some things are necessary and others are desirable. In an attempt to categorize his needs and to list the items that he should be knowledgeable about I have subdivided the needs into two categories: (1) Information the State Engineer must have to establish his policy and provide water administration, (2) Information that would be desirable for the State Engineer to have to assist him in establishing his policy and provide the proper administration.

I. Information the State Engineer must have:

- A. An inventory of all water rights in Milford Valley in order of priority; also an inventory of the rights in Beaver Valley.
- B. A history of development of the basin and its relationship to groundwater levels.
- C. Groundwater fluctuations and water levels on an annual basis.
- D. Relationship between groundwater levels and annual rainfall.
- E. Relationship of groundwater levels with the flow of Beaver River and the acre-foot in the Rocky Ford Reservoir.
- F. What criteria the State Engineer will use to cut priorities.
 1. The amount of acre-feet to be cut.
 2. The time the cut will be made.
 3. The amount of recovery needed before those rights that have been cut will be re-instated.
 4. How many rights will be involved.

- G. Future action that will be taken by the State Engineer under recovery conditions.
- H. Annual acreage survey of actual irrigated lands.
- I. Annual award allowed, based upon actual irrigated lands.
- J. All use of water must be metered (irrigation, stockwatering, industrial and municipal).
- K. The Proposed Determination of all basins in the Beaver River-Escalante Valley should be published by State Engineer's Office.
- L. The Assistant Attorney General must lay a legal foundation to cut priorities, such as (1) Clear up existing protests, (2) Have meters installed on all wells that use water, (3) Allow enough time for municipalities and domestic users to acquire other rights and to change them into their present wells, etc.

2. Information that would be desirable:

- A. An economic study of the advantages and disadvantages of cutting water rights.
- B. A study that would determine the amount of trans-basin movement of groundwater (especially between Milford Valley and Beaver Valley).
- C. A knowledge of all water uses in the Beaver River-Escalante Valley Area (meters on all wells and satisfactory measurements on surface water to determine the proper acre-feet award to be used on each right).
- D. An outline by the Assistant Attorney General on the exact steps to take when the State Engineer decides to cut priorities (when, how, and in what order).